



## AMONG THE BOY SCOUTS— SCOUTING IN THE PHILIPPINES

By Horacio Ochangco\*



*The Beginning*—There is no exact data about the first boy scout troop. Whether it was organized in the American-European Y. M. C. A. at Manila or by an unknown Jesuit Father in Zamboanga—whether it was organized at Boac, Marinduque by the Hon. Pedro del Mundo, is not clear. The first Troops appeared to have been organized in 1911.

Troop I, has a record of 12 years of registered service during the period 1911 to 1933 and is the oldest troop now in existence in the Islands.

The real pioneers were those early Scouters. Most of these Scouters, including all the members of the Office Staff of the present Headquarters, are still pioneering to meet the great challenge of providing a spare-time program of Character and Citizenship training for over 800,000 boys of Scout age in this Island.

When Lord Robert Baden Powell, the Chief Scout of the World, visited the Philippines prior to the World War, there was aroused in the hearts of the Philippine Youth considerable interest in the Boy Scout movement. In 1923 the Boy Work Committee of the Manila Rotary Club organized formally and enlisted the American Legion to assist to finance the expense of a Boy Scout Headquarters. A Boy Scout Headquarter (Philippine Council) for the Philippines was established and David T. Ritchie, a Warrant officer in the U. S. Army was employed as Acting Scout Executive during his spare time. When Mr. Ritchie returned to the United States at the end of his tour of duty, he was succeeded by Warrant Officer James Fitzpatrick. During those years, Major P. D. Carman, the first President of the Philippine Council and other Council Scouters were very active in organizing troops of Boy Scouts in and around the city of Manila.

Hon. Manuel Camus who is now our Scout Commissioner was the Scoutmaster of Troop 3, which was organized in the Central Student Y. M. C. A., at that time. He has served the movement faithfully and actively ever since.

Late in 1923, Major P. D. Carman while on vacation in the United States convinced the National Executive Board that national cooperation was necessary if the movement was to grow and prosper like it should.

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Accordingly, in January, 1924, Mr. F. S. Macfarlane, a trained and experienced Scout Executive, was sent to the Philippine Islands, and in 1926 while on leave; brought back Messrs. Irving Wiltse and Joseph R. Greenan as Assistant Scout Executives.

Mr. Irving Wiltse, was allotted the field of the island of Luzon with headquarters at Manila and Mr. Joseph R. Greenan was assigned to the Visayan Islands with headquarters at Cebu.

Mr. F. S. Macfarlane was sent to Porto Rico to organize a Council there in the latter part of 1928. Mr. Irving Wiltse was forced to return to the United States early in 1929 due to a serious accident to Mrs. Wiltse. He replaced Mr. Macfarlane in Porto Rico in January, 1930. Mr. Joseph R. Greenan transferred to San Antonio, Texas in July, 1929 after employing Mr. Jose P. Caoili as Assistant Scout Executive in February after the departure of Mr. Irving Wiltse. Mr. Caoili served in this capacity until March, 1930 when he left the movement.

All of these Executives rendered faithful service as evidenced by the rapid growth of membership and standards during their terms of office.

Past Presidents Major P. D. Carman, 1923-1927, Joseph H. Schmidt, 1928-9, Frank B. Ingersoll, 1930, Arthur F. Fischer, 1931-32, Major Vicente Lim, 1932-1933, all rendered splendid service to the cause of scouting during their respective administrations. They helped to solve progressively, many of the problems confronting the future growth and development of the movement.—From the *Annual Report of the Scout Executive, 1933.*

(From now on, there will be published a series of questions taken from the 'Scoutmaster's Correspondence Course,' for you to test your knowledge in Scouting.) The following are the first five questions. Answer them with True or False. Answers will be published in the next issue of 'The Young Citizen.'

### QUIZZ I—

1. The fundamental aim of the Boy Scout Movement is to provide boys with Scouting Activities that will keep them out of mischief.

2. The Scoutmaster should delegate routine detail to other officers instead of doing such formal work himself.